

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 NSC-05

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O 131616Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5711

INFO SECDEF

CSAF WASHDC

JCS

USCINCEUR

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN

16AF/CV/TORREJON

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 3774

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MASS,SP

SUBJECT: SPANISH AIR FORCE F-4 PROGRAM

REF: JUSMG MADRID 121325Z MAY 76

1. I COMMEND TO THE DEPT'S CAREFUL ATTENTION THE REFERENCED TELEGRAM, WHICH REPORTS THAT THE SPANISH AIR FORCE'S NEW CHIEF OF STAFF (GALARZA) HAS ORDERED A REVIEW OF SPANISH AIR FORCE AIRCRAFT REQUIREMENTS WHICH COULD WELL PRODUCE A RENEWED FORMAL REQUEST TO US FOR PROVISION OF F-4E AIRCRAFT IN IMPLEMENTATION OF SUPPLEMENTARY AGREEMENT 7 OF THE TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION.

2. UNTIL THIS WEEK, WE HAD EVERY REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THIS ISSUE HAD BEEN SETTLED IN FAVOR OF UPGRADING F-4C'S. I CAN UNDERSTAND THAT WASHINGTON AGENCIES MAY FEEL SOME EXASPERATION AT THE DIFFICULTIES OF DEALING WITH THE SPANISH IN THIS MATTER. ALTHOUGH WE CANNOT PREDICT WHAT THE FINAL SPANISH AIR FORCE DECISION WILL BE, I BELIEVE WE
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SHOULD BEND EVERY EFFORT TO RESPOND AS POSITIVELY AS WE CAN AND

AS SOON AS WE CAN TO THE QUESTIONS POSED IN THE JUSMG MESSAGE REGARDING FUTURE AVAILABILITY OF LATE MODEL F-4E'S AND THE SUPPORTABILITY THROUGH 1985 OF F-4C'S. I NOTE WITH RESPECT TO THE F-4E'S THAT GALARZA WOULD NOT INSIST ON DELIVERY BY EARLY 1977 AS AGREED IN THE EXCHANGE OF NOTES OF JAN 24.

3. IT IS NOT BEYOND THE REALM OF POSSIBILITY THAT PERCEIVED A LACK OF RESPONSIVENESS ON OUR PART IN THE COMING WEEKS ON THIS ISSUE COULD PRODUCE SOME DIFFICULTIES FOR FOREIGN MINISTER AREILZA IN HIS EFFORTS TO ASSURE SMOOTH SAILING FOR THE TREATY THROUGH THE SPANISH CORTES.
STABLER

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